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THE

Mysteries of the East

Comprising the Most Wonderful Romances of Oriental Origin.

BOOK ONE.

Tartarian Tales.

Part 1.

PUBLISHED BY

C. V. Doss & Bros,

Vepery, P. O. Madras.

P[illegible] Annas, Six.

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1915.

TARTARIAN TALES.

Near Astracan lived a solitary dervis, who, returning one evening from angling upon the banks of the river Volga, was surprised to find on the threshold of his cell a new-born child stark naked. He took it in his arms, and ran to tell this accident to a tailor of Astracan, called Kourban, from whom he often used to receive alms.

The tailor's wife happily was brought to bed the very night before, of a daughter, which died the moment it came into the world. She offered the breast to the child the dervis had brought her, and forgetting, as it were her own daughter, turned her affection entirely to the little boy, whom she named Schems-Eddin. The tailor and his wife having had no children for nearly fifteen years, loved little Schems-Eddin with extreme tenderness, and the boy believing himself their son, returned it with a respect and submission which augmented the affection they had for him. When he was grown up, notwithstanding the inclination he found in himself for arms, the sole will of Kourban engaged him to learn the trade of a tailor, and in less than two years he made such extraordinary progress in that profession, that only by looking at a person, without taking any measure, he could make a suit of clothes as exactly fit, as the best tailor in Astracan could make with ever so much measuring. Schems-Eddin's skill quickly made a noise all over the town. Nobody was thought to have a tolerable good taste, if he was not dressed in a suit of his making, and most of the ladies employed him without giving umbrage

to their husbands, because by seeing them only at a distance, he could in four days time bring them such a habit as they desired.

One day, as this young tailor was in his shop, an old slave accosting him, desired to speak with him in private. "Sir," said she, "be so kind as to come along with me immediately. Two of the handsomest ladies in all Astracan have occasion for your service." Schems-Eddin readily promised to go with her. "But this is not all", replied the woman. "You must consent to have your eyes muffled, otherwise, I must not carry you along with me." Schems-Eddin was surprised at such a proposal, but resolving to venture any thing rather than miss seeing a couple of beautiful ladies, he immediately went with the old woman. She conducted him to a little house in the suburbs of Astracan, carried him into a parlour, and pulling out a silk handkerchief embroidered with gold, presented him to two black slaves, who had their sabres in their hands, ordered them to bind his eyes with that handkerchief, and to conduct him to the place where he was expected. But if he shewed the least curiosity to discover the way they led him, they should that moment cut off his head. This order frightened the young tailor. "Fear nothing," said the old woman to him, "provided you are wise and discreet, your life is safe." He resumed his courage on these promises, suffered them to bind his eyes and walked thus blindfolded for the space of an hour. When the slaves brought him to his destination and took off his muffler, he found himself in a hall magnificently lighted by above a hundred wax tapers.

At the upper end of the hall was a throne of massy silver, upon which sat three ladies, each covered with a

veil, through which it was nevertheless easy to perceive, that one of them though perfectly handsome, was about forty years old, and that nature had formed nothing so charming and so complete as the other two, who seemed to be hardly eighteen. A great number of female slaves, veiled in the same manner, and ranged on each side of the throne, kept a profound silence, and seemed respectfully to wait the command of the three ladies. After they had given the tailor time to look about him and admire so much magnificence, the lady that appeared the eldest of the three, rose from the throne. "Schems-Eddin," says she, "your reputation has excited our curiosity. We have heard wonders concerning your skill, and are willing to be judjes of it ourselves. Look well upon these two young ladies and view their shapes with attention. Dare you engage without taking any other measure, to make each of them a genteel suit of clothes"? "Madam," replied the young tailor, "I shall do my endeavours to keep up the reputation I have with some justice acquired. I have viewed these ladies enough. Order me the silks, and in eight days time you shall be satisfied."

The black slaves upon this led Schems-Eddin into another room, and opened twenty coffers which were all full of the finest silks of the East. He choose what was necessary to make the two habits complete. His eyes were again muffled and he was led to the house of the old woman, who reconducted him home. "If you would have your good fortune continue," said she to him at parting, "do not seek to know from whence you come, or for whom you are to work. The least step you take towards such a discovery, will cost you your life. Think of nothing but how to execute, as soon as possible, the orders

you have received. I shall fetch you again eight days hence, and carry you to the same ladies, upon the former conditions."

The old woman having taken leave of Schems-Eddin, he went to bed, after he had neatly laid up the silks, resolving to begin the suits at break of day. But he could not close his eyes all the night, as the charms of one of the young laidies returned to his mind a thousand times. Two large blue eyes, whose brightness shot through the obscurity of her veil, had made such an impression upon his mind, that he was no longer master of himself. He got up, lighted his lamp, and after having studied some time in what manner he should cut out his silks, he hit upon a method so uncommon, and withal so advantageous to the beauty of the two young ladies, especially of her he admired, that he had very good reason to believe they would be pleased with his performance. He then set to work with abundance of care and diligence, and the clothes being finished at the day appointed, the old woman who came to fetch him, committed him, with his eyes muffled, into the hands of the two blacks, who after having led him through the same passages as before, presented him to the three ladies, whom he found seated upon the throne of silver.

Schems-Eddin had no sooner opened his bundle and spread out the habits, than they began to extol his wonderful fancy. The two ladies for whom they were made, retired into a sort of wardrobe with four slaves, and returned into the hall a few minutes afterwards without veils, and in their new habits, a thousand times more brilliant than the full moon. So soon as they appeared, the hall resounded with the applauses of the slaves, and the young tailor was

so struck with the charms of her to whom he had consecrated his heart, that he fell backwards upon a sofa and was ready to die with the extreme pleasure he felt in that moment. Indeed, the beauty of those ladies was so great, that it could be compared to nothing but to that of the houris.

They extolled Schems-Eddin to the skies, praised the invention and neatness of his work, gave him each of them a purse of a hundred pieces of gold, and begged him to make them two more suits different from those which he had now brought them. The young man went into the silk room, choose five pieces of a very pretty fancy, made two other suits more singular than had yet been seen, returned at the eight days end with the same ceremonies, received greater applauses than before, two hundred pieces of gold, and orders for choosing silks to make up more. In short this trade continued for seven weeks together, in which time, Schems-Eddin had made up fourteen suits of clothes and received as many purses of gold. As the passion he had conceived for one of the two ladies grew so violent, that notwithstanding the distance there appeared to be between him and her, he resolved to declare his love. After having considered a great while how he should go about it, he could think of no other expedient but to put a letter for her in the pocket of the next suit of clothes he should carry her. He executed this design and expressed what he felt for her in terms so moving, and so submissive, that he hoped, if she did not accept of his heart, at least she would forgive his rashness in offering it.

The letter had all the effect Schems-Eddin could wish for. The next time he appeared before his lady, instead of

anger, he read in her eyes something so sweet, that he had much ado to refrain from throwing himself at her feet. When he presented her with her clothes, she went out to try them, and sent them back to him a moment afterwards, with word, that they were something too little. The young tailor, who well knew that the clothes were as they should be, soon imagined that this was only a feint to convey him an answer. He pulled out his scissors and his needle, and pretending to alter what was amiss, searched the pockets, and in one of them found a letter, which he dexterously put up, and then returned the habit without having made the least alteration in it. The lady was very well satisfied with it, and came again into the hall. New orders were given to the young tailor, he was reconducted as usual, and the moment he got home, he broke open the letter, in which he read what follows:—"I could not, amiable Schems-Eddin, be insensible to your passion. You describe it in colours so lively, and so natural, that I should be afraid of offending our great prophet if I repaid it with ingratitude. I love you, and do not blush to confess it. Every thing in you pleases me, and you should quickly be happy if it depended upon me alone to crown your love, which I believe is sincere and honourable. But, dear light of my life, what tears must this confession cost you, when you know that I am for ever shut up in a place where all things are designed for the pleasures of the king of Astracan, and the unfortunate Zebd-El-caton must never hope to be united with the tender Schems-Eddin."

If the young tailor felt an infinite deal of joy at reading of this letter, that joy was not unmixed with grief. Zebd-El-caton was the finest woman in all Tartary, but it was impossible not to know that she was the favourite of Alsaleh,

king of Astracan. Schems-Eddin was too conversant among the principal persons in the city, not to have heard talk of the charms of that young lady, and her cruelty towards the king. As that prince was above sixty years old, and Zebd-El-caton hardly seventeen, she did not know how to reconcile herself to sexagenary sighs, and the king of Astracan, who loved her with unparalleled ardour and delicacy, being unwi'ling to make use of the authority he had over his slave, waited with patience, till his unbounded complaisance should gain him the fair one's heart.

Schems-Eddin too plainly saw how impossible it was to carry off Zebd-El-caton from his king. This reflection threw him into such a violent despair, that when the old slave came to fetch him to the seraglio, she found him sick a-bed of a violent fever. She ran and told this news to the three ladies. They were very much alârmed at it, and without considering the danger to which they exposed themselves, they gained over the eunuchs, who had suffered the young tailor to visit them so often, and by this means had liberty to go out of the palace. Schems-Eddin, who was resolved to use no remedies whereby he might be cured, was in the greatest surprise to see those ladies at his bed's head. He did his utmost to shew his acknowledgment of this favour, when the eldest of the three, having lifted up her veil for the first time, spoke to him in these words. "Your health, charming Schems-Eddin, is so dear to us, that we venture our own lives for an opportunity of trying if there is no way to save yours. We beg you to tell us the cause of your illness, and perhaps we may find out some remedy for it." The young tailor, seized with respect, and touched with the beauty of that lady, who felt a certain emotion she could not account for, raised himself

up.—"Ah! madam," replied he in a languishing voice, "however incurable I thought my distemper, your presence and that of these ladies, has poured a salutary balm into my wounds. Grief alone was the illness which would have given me my death. But, since you have the goodness to interest yourself in the preservation of a miserable wretch, I abandon the cruel resolution I had taken, and hope, in less than six days time, I shall be able to deliver these two ladies the clothes they have commanded me to make for them." Zebd-El-caton, affected with the young tailor's extraordinary passion, pressed his hand. "If that is possible," says she, "without endangering your health, pray endeavour, my dear Schems-Eddin, to keep your word with us. You cannot imagine the joy it will be to me in particular." The ladies, after this, got up, and attended by the eunuchs, who had conducted them quite to the tailor's house, returned to the palace.

Schems-Eddin passed the night in so great an excess of pleasure, that by the next morning he was in a condition to begin the clothes. They were finished at the six days end as he promised, and the old woman, who often came to inquire after his health, having put him into the hands of the two blacks, they carried him to the hall, which at sight of him, resounded with a thousand shouts of joy. Schems-Eddin presented the habits to the ladies. They viewed them over and over, and found them of a fancy so superior to those which he had made before, that they were perfectly charmed with them. To add to their magnificence, they sent for a casket full of jewels, and ordered him to choose some out, to fix upon those clothes. The young tailor obeyed their commands, and was fastening the sleeve of the charming Zebd-El-caton with a clasp of

diamonds, when on a sudden the door of the hall burst open, and a man, in whose face was painted the height of fury, came directly towards him with his sabre in his hand. Schems-Eddin soon perceived him to be the king of Astracan, and now looked upon his death to be inevitable. But not thinking it proper to wait for the effects of that prince's revenge, nor to abandon to his fury the three ladies to whom he was so much obliged, he immediately seized a poniard set with diamonds, which was in the casket and without giving the king time to come up, darted it at him with so good an aim, that gave him a deep wound which felled him to the earth.

Alsaleh, in this condition, had not strength enongh to get up. He called for help, and twelve black eunuchs running in at his voice, he commanded them to seize Schems-Eddin, as likewise the three ladies, and the two black slaves, to strip them to the waist, and to cut them to pieces with their sabres. While the king was laid upon a sofa, and his surgeon sent for, the cruel orders he had given were in part executed. They had now stript all the criminals, who were just ready to undergo that cruel sentence, when the eldest of the three ladies, having by chance cast her eyes upon the young Schems-Eddin and spied the mark of a pomegranate which he had beneath the right pap, "Ah! my lord," cries she, throwing herself at Alsaleh's feet, "suspend, I beseech you, for a moment, your just anger! I alone am guilty. The unfortunate Sutchoume your daughter, Zebd-El-caton, and the young man, are innocent. But destiny is not to be avoided, and notwithstanding all the precaution you have taken to escape the prediction of the astrologer, behold that

prediction at length accomplished by the unavoidable dispensation of providence."

The king, surprised at this discourse, caused his eunuchs to retire, and after having ordered the ladies and the tailor to cover themselves, he commanded her, who had just now spoken, to explain that enigma, which he was at a loss to understand. This lady obeyed the king's commands, and delivered herself in these terms:—

The History of the Sultana Dugme.

You may, my lord, remember that at the time when I had the happiness to please you, upon your consulting the famous Abdelmelek upon my pregnancy, that astrologer told you, I should bring forth a son who should give you your death, and be the cause of his too, if the child were not killed as soon as born. As Abdelmelek's predictions always came true, this gave you abundance of uneasiness, and to prevent the misfortune you were threatened with, you had me watched with the utmost strictness. In vain I represented to you the little credit that is to be given to a science so uncertain as astrology. You resolved to be present at my labour, to hinder any deceit on my side. My tears had no effect upon you; you were inexorable. I could not dissuade you from the cruel resolution you had taken to shed your own blood, and I almost died away with grief and terror, at seeing you enter my chamber with Abdelmelek, at the moment when you were assured I was just ready to be brought to-bed. But, my lord, you cannot have forgotten that I passed from the most violent uneasiness to the most excessive joy, when instead of a boy, I brought into the world the unfortunate Sutchoume. Then you looked upon Abdelmelek with indignation.

"Ignorant or wicked astrologer," said you to him, your eyes inflamed with anger, "I shall teach thee to mock thy king in this manner. Thy malice had likely to have cost my dear Dugme her life. But I will soon punish an insolant subject for his temerity." Upon this, Abdelmelek, continued the sultana, threw himself at your feet. "My lord", said he, "do not begin with me to fulfil a prediction which will prove but too true. Have but a moment's patience, and you shall find that my science is not ill-grounded." You did not give the astrologer time to finish what he had to say. You severed his head from his body at one blow of your sabre, and went out of the room, after having s nt away the daughter I had brought forth.

You could scarce, my lord, be got into your own apartment, when I felt new pains. The woman, who had assisted me in my first, came to me. She found I was going to bring forth another child. She sent every body out of my chamber upon different pretences, and a moment afterwards I brought forth a son, beauteous as the light. Nature, which had formed nothing so complete, would not give me leave to sacrifice him to you. My bowels rebelled against the cruelty which I accused you of in my soul. I put my son, with jewels of a considerable value, into the hands of the midwife, and begged her to go immediately to seek a nurse for it somewhere out of Astracan. Being now no longer watched, it was easy for that woman to carry out my son, and I impatiently expected her return, that I might hear what was become of him. When four days being past without seeing any thing of her, I was at last told, to my unspeakable grief, that she was murdered a few leagues from Astracan. There was no mention made of any child's being found with her, and that

gave me some comfort. But notwithstanding all the secret search I have made ever since that time to find out what was become of my son, I have never been able to learn any news of him, and I looked upon him as irrecoverably lost, when at this moment, my lord, I know him in that young man, by the pomegranate upon his breast, as upon that of Sutchoume his twin-sister. It was undoubtedly natural sympathy, continued Dugme, that acted in me, when passing with your majesty by Kourban's shop, about two months ago, I of a sudden felt for that young tailor an extreme tenderness, which had nothing in it that was criminal, and of which I knew not the secret cause. It is I alone, my lord, that under the pretence of employing him to make clothes for my daughter, and the beautiful Zebd-El-caton, corrupted your eunuchs to convey him into the palace. Punish therefore, in me, the only instrument of all your misfortunes.

The History of Schems-Eddin Continued.

The king of Astracan was strangely surprised at this story and though the melancholy state he was in, should have made him think of nothing but revenge, he gave orders to send immediately for the tailor and his wife, who passed for the father and mother of Schems-Eddin. While they were gone for, the surgeon dressed the kings wound, and it was not without inconceivable anguish that Schems-Eddin read in the surgeon's eyes, that his life was in danger. The tailor and his wife came at last. They confessed that the young man was none of their son; that he was brought to them about eighteen years before by a solitary dervis, who told them he found him stark naked in his little hut at his return from angling in the river Volga; and

that the good old man died suddenly three months afterwards, without having been able to give them any further information.

The day on which Schems-Eddin had been carried to Kourban agreeing exactly with that of Sutchoume's birth, and the pomegranate upon his breast, which was in the same place as upon his twin-sister, entirely convincing the king he was his son, he caused him to come near, embraced him affectionately, and ordered him to be covered with a sumptuous robe. If on one side Schems-Eddin rejoiced at the nobleness of his birth, on the other, his soul was full of the sharpest affliction. He threw himself at Alsaleh's feet. "My lord," said he, melting into tears, "I wait impatiently for death. I cannot look upon myself without horror, after what my hand has done. Purge the world of such a monster as I am. This is the greatest and only favour you can shew to a son so guilty as me." "No, no, my dear Schems-Eddin," replied the king embracing him afresh. My death is not owing to any guilt of yours. What is written upon the table of light can never be avoided. Live, I command you, and assemble this moment my visiers and all the emirs of Astracan. I will in their presence acknowledge you for my son and for my successor." Schems-Eddin having a thorough sense of the goodness of the king his father, embraced his knees with respect, and made but very little haste to execute his orders. But the sultana Dugme, having immediately sent out his commands by the twelve black slaves, the king's chamber was soon filled with the principal persons of the court. That prince was laid upon his sofa. "The angel of death is not far from me," said he to them, "and I find I shall quickly sleep under the wing of the mercy of the Almighty. Behold,

visiers," continued he with a feeble voice, "behold your master," shewing them the young Schems-Eddin. "This is my son by the sultana Dugme, and I command you to look upon him as your king."

The visiers and emirs were mightily astonished at the approaching death of Alsaleh. They were likewise ignorant that the king had ever had a son. But the sultana having in a few words related to them the history of the young tailor, they all prostrated themselves with their faces to the ground, and swore by their heads to obey him till death. This ceremony was hardly over, when the king made the sultanas Sutchoume and Zebd-El-caton draw near to his sofa. "My dear Dugme," said he to the first, "I am too sensible of the injustice I did your charms in loving the beauteous Zebd-El-caton, who never rewarded my passion with any thing but ingratitude. You did not deserve this infidelity from me. I die with extreme regret for having broken the oaths I so often made to be always yours." "Ah, my lord," replied Dugme shedding plenteous tears, "whatever tenderness I felt for your majesty, I never wished to control you in your pleasures. I loved you, my lord, for yourself, and you never knew me behold with an eye of envy your new affection for Zebd-El-caton. Whatever grief the loss of your heart was to me, your being contented was enough to keep me from murmuring at your sovereign will." The king's love for the sultana redoubled at this moment. He embraced her tenderly. "I will give you a proof, my dear Dugme," said he, "of the truth of what I say. The charming Zebd-El-caton no longer touches me; and to give an undoubted mark of it, I conjure her in your presence to give her hand to the prince my son. As for Sutchoume, the Visier Benbukar."

The king of Astracan could not any further explain his pleasure with regard to his daughter. He died in the arms of the sultana with these last words in his mouth.

It is impossible to paint the despair of Schems-Eddin. They had much ado to keep him from attempting his own life. His mother, his sister and Zebd-El-caton did not leave him a moment; the last particularly being delivered from a king whose troublesome, though respectful love had more than once made her tremble, used all her endeavours to dispel Schems-Eddin's sorrow. But insensible to all the honours that were done to him, he fell into so profound a melancholy, that his life was feared. Public prayers were ordered in the mosques of Astracan. They in some measure appeased the wrath of the great prophet against the new king. He found his mind more at peace in a few months, and after having nobly rewarded the tailor and his wife for the kindness they had always shewn him, he married Sutchoume to the visier Benbukar, which was what he thought the king his father meant by his last words, and publicly espoused Zebd-El-caton himself. The prince spent almost five months with his dear wife in the most perfect felicity. The days in her company seemed no more than moments; but this happiness was all of a sudden interrupted by frightful dreams, which continually represented to his thoughts his bleeding father. Zebd-El-caton to no purpose endeavoured by the most endearing behaviour to efface from her husband's mind the dark ideas with which it was filled. He was incessantly torn with remorse for the murder he had committed, and could think of no other way to put an end to it, than by taking a journey to Mecca. Zebd-El-caton unwilling to part with the king, begged that he would permit her to go with him. Schems-Eddin

being unable to refuse her that satisfaction, left his brother-in-law, the visier Benbukar, regent in his absence, recommended his mother and sister to his care in the strongest terms, and set out from Astracan.

After a tedious journey, in which the king and his wife underwent a thousand fatigues, they at length arrived at Mecca. There, Schems-Eddin walked seven times round the temple, and after having purified himself with the water of the well called Zemzem, he went in the evening to mount Arafat, where he caused two hundred sheep to be slain, which he distributed among the poor. From thence he took the road to Medina and performed his devotions in the most holy mosque, and afterwards, having offered a present of forty thousand pieces of gold, as he had done at Mecca, he joined the caravan and travelled towards Grand Cairo, where they arrived without meeting with any accident. Schems-Eddin no longer felt the cruel agitations which so often interrupted his slumbers. He began to enjoy an undisturbed happiness and prepared to begin his journey towards his own kingdom, when the beauteous Zebd-El-caton was attacked with a violent fever. This unlucky accident hindered him from setting out with the caravan, which could not defer its journey. But he soon had just reason to be alarmed, when the distemper of his beloved wife increased to such a degree, that her life was despaired of. That princess was almost two days insensible and recovered for some moments the use of her speech only to pierce Schems-Eddin's heart with the most cruel affliction. " I must leave you, my dear husband," said she to him, embracing him with extreme tenderness, "and I conceive beforehand all the horrors of such a separation. But you must be patient under the loss

of me. You are decreed for still greater misfortunes. This warning I give you from the great prophet, who appeared to me some hours ago. 'It is good,' said he to me, 'that princes should suffer some trials. Adversity purifies their virtue, and they govern the better for it. Schems-Eddin shall quickly be convinced of this truth: bid him from me to begin to prepare himself for it.' "This," continued Zebd-El-caton, pouring forth tears in abundance, "this is the message I have to deliver to you. Summon up all your reason, that you may not murmur at the orders of Providence. Adieu, my dear Schems—" The princess had not time to conclude, for the angel which waited for her soul cut short her speech.

Never was despair equal to that of the king of Astracan. He could not be removed from the body of his spouse. He was inconsolable for the loss of her, and knew no other remedy than immediately to have a large box made, of cinnamon wood, open only at the top towards the head. In this he put the body of Zebd-El-caton, and adorned it with a great number of jewels. Then with his guard, which was about five hundred men, he endeavoured to overtake the caravan, which was gone but some days journey before him, intending, so soon as he should come up with it, to have the corpse of his dear wife embalmed. The prince had not been two days upon his march, when he was surrounded by almost two thousand Bedouins. He made an incredible resistance; but all his followers being cut in pieces, without excepting one, he himself fell among the number of the dead. The Bedouins, after the victory, fell to stripping their enemies. They took every thing they could find, and did not forget the bier adorned with jewels, in which was the body of Zebd-El-

caton. Schems-Eddin, who defended himself like a lion, had however received never a wound that was mortal; and it was not so much the quantity of blood he had lost, as his being quite tired out, that was the occasion of his falling among the dead. When he had recovered his senses, he was surprised to find himself alone, and in the midst of his men, among whom there was not one that had the least sign of life. What a sad spectacle was this for the king! He got up as well as he was able, and not forgetting his dear spouse, he ran all over the field of battle, to see if the robbers, after having taken away the jewels, might not have left the box in which was the corpse of Zebd-El-caton. His search was all in vain; he almost died with grief at this new loss. But at length leaving a place which had been so fatal to him, after having travelled an hour, without knowing whither he went, he came near to a little village, entering into which he met an iman, who at first was frightened to see a man quite naked, and all covered with blood. But Schems-Eddin having, without making himself known to him, informed him that he was the only one of his company that had escaped the cruelty of the Bedouins, the iman took pity on him, carried him home to his house, cured his wounds, and having afterwards given him some pieces of money, the prince with them retook the way to his own kingdom.

After a long and painful journey, which Schems-Eddin travelled sometimes alone, and sometimes with little caravans, which assisted him in his necessities, he at length reached a vast champaign country, which was about half a league from Astracan. There he spied a nephew of the visier, his brother-in-law, with a pretty numerous train, and running to him with open arms, "Receive," said he,

"my dear Zemin, receive the unhappy Schems-Eddin oppressed with the most cruel misfortunes, and who for almost three years has been exposed to such miseries as would strike you with horror but to hear them." Zemin was surprised at the sight of his king, though the fatigues of the journey, the hardships he had undergone, and the meanness of his habit had altered him extremely, yet he could not help knowing him again. He prostrated himself before him with all the appearances of the sincerest respect; and taking off his own robe, he covered the prince with it, and conducted him to the palace through the most private streets. But what was the amazement of Schems-Eddin at his entrance there, to see himself loaded with chains by the same Zemin, who had but now been loading him with compliments! Then he learnt, to his inexpressible grief, that his cruel brother-in-law Benbukar, after having himself strangled his wife and the sultana Dugme, had seized the kingdom, massacred all his faithful subjects, and those who opposed his usurpation; and that he himself must shortly expect the same fate. Schems-Eddin grew motionless at this news. At first he gave himself up to fury and rage, but presently calling to mind the last words of Zebd-Elcaton, he resigned himself that moment to the will of the Almighty. "God," said he, "is great; He is just. I am not yet sufficiently punished for my crimes; but what had my mother and my sister done, to come to so tragical an end? Their death, I hope, will not be long unpunished." The prince had not ended these words, when the usurper, followed by four ruffians, entered the room. His presence startled Schems-Eddin: "Ah! barbarous visier," cried he, the moment he saw him, "art thou come to fill up the measure of thy guilt? Cannot the blood of thy wife and my

mother, which already rises up against thee, assuage thy fury? Behold my head; strike. But remember, the day will come when I shall accuse thee of these enormous crimes before the tribunal of the great God, and that when the angels shall give testimony of the truth, all this mighty power of thine, beneath which my subjects groan and tremble, shall not then preserve thee from being condemned and severely punished for thy execrable parricide."

These sharp reproaches quite confounded the usurper. He had not strength enough now to command the death of his lawful king. His menaces terrified him. He thought he already saw the hand of God lifted over his head. He therefore contented himself only to put Schems-Eddin out of a condition ever to reäscend the throne, and caused a red-hot iron to be rubbed over his eyes, which deprived him of sight, and afterwards sent him into a deep dungeon. There was not a day passed wherein the king of Astracan, though oppressed with miseries, and delivered up to the most bitter affliction, did not pay respect to the decrees of Providence, and return thanks to God, for having punished him so gently for his crimes. But one night when grief had for some moments given way to sleep, he thought he saw in a dream the great prophet, with Zebd-El-caton in his hand, assuring him of the change of his condition, and promising he should one day enjoy a perfect happiness with his spouse. Schems-Eddin started up and waked. But this dream seemed to him so extraordinary, and to have so little foundation, that he gave very little heed to it. It even added to his sorrow; but yet it was not long before he felt the effects of one part of this prediction.

One morning, as the prince was performing his devotions prostrate upon the earth, he heard the doors of his

prison open with a great noise. Imagining that somebody was sent to dispatch him, he did not alter his posture, but waited the blow with intrepidity, when two of his former visiers, whose zeal and virtue were sufficiently known to him, threw themselves at his feet: "My lord," said one of them, embracing his knees, "do you not remember the voice of Mutamhid and Cuberghe, your faithful slaves? The ungrateful visier, on whom you had heaped so many favours, together with the traitor Zemin, have just now met with their deaths by our hands. The people, tired out with his cruelties, rejoice exceedingly at his death. They knew nothing of your return, which we took care to inform them of, having pretended to be of Benbukar's party, only that we might in time be able to push him from the throne he had so basely and cruelly usurped. Come then, my lord, and once more fill it, since all your subjects call for their lawful sovereign with the utmost impatience." Schems-Eddin praised God, and thanked the visiers for their zeal. "But, how my wise friends," said he, "would you have me remount the throne? Is such an unhappy prince as I in a condition to govern you? No, no, visiers, choose from among you a man that may be more capable of such a charge, and leave me to mourn in secret for all my misfortunes." "Ah, my lord," replied Mutamhid, your contempt of greatness is a sure sign that none is more worthy to govern than yourself. We conjure you not to reject our entreaties. We are ready to sacrifice our lives and fortunes to defend you upon a throne, which you have already so worthily filled." The king of Astracan, moved by these words, which shewed so much affection and loyalty, put himself into the hands of his two visiers. They conducted him to the baths of the palace, and after having clothed

him in a robe of state, presented him to the people, who testified by a thousand shouts of joy, how impatient they had been to see him again upon the throne of his ancestors.

Whatever satisfaction Schems-Eddin took in hearing the love his subjects had for him, he continually wept in secret for the loss of his dear Zebd-El-caton, and the privation of his sight. In vain the most skilful physicians and surgeons in Astracan tried all their art upon him. They agreed, at last, that there were not the least hopes that he would ever see again the light of the sun. There was one of them only, who told the king, that he remembered he had formerly read in an old Arabian manuscript, that there was in the island of Serendib, a bird, which might restore him to sight; but that besides the difficulties there were in finding and coming near it, he would not warrant the manuscript to be infallible. "The bird," continued the physician, "is upon the top of a very high tree, all the leaves of which are as hard as iron, and as sharp as razors. Some woman must, in order to restore to sight her blind husband, undertake to climb up this tree from branch to branch. If her affection for her husband never suffered any alteration, the leaves will soften to her touch, and she will easily climb to the top, and draw in a golden vessel which hangs at the bird's neck, a liquor as white as milk, which distils perpetually from its bill. This liquor, the Arabian manuscript affirms to be sovereign for restoring sight to those who have been deprived of it by any accident whatsoever, nay, even to those who have been born blind. After having received this divine liquor, she shall come down from the tree as easily as she climbed up. But, if the woman, who ventures to fetch this marvellous juice, has ever had the least thought contrary to the purity of marriage, or, has ceased one

moment to have an entire love for her husband, she must expect nothing from her rash enterprise but certain death. The leaves indeed will grow soft to let her climb to the top of the tree, but when she is to come down, they will resume their edge, and the woman falling from bough to bough, shall be hacked into a thousand pieces. I believe, my lord," continued Abubeker, "that this tree, if it is certainly in being, is still a virgin and untouched; and that no woman hitherto has offered herself to fetch a liquor, which is to be acquired with so much trouble and danger."

Schems-Eddin listened to this story with admiration. "It is not impossible," said he, "but that such a woman may by found in this city, though such women are but very rare and we must try if we cannot find out so great a treasure." The wives of all the blind men in Astracan were brought before the king. Abubeker in his presence declared to them what was to be done, and Schems-Eddin promised an unbounded reward to her who could by this means restore him to sight. But there was not one of them who would venture to climb the tree, as the conditions were a little too delicate and death too certain. They all in general refused to undergo so dreadful a probation. The other physicians of Astracan made a wonderful jest of the king's credulity. "This new kind of remedy," said they, "is an invention of Abubeker's, who would fain set up for a man of prodigious learning. He is mightily set upon miracles, and always distinguishes himself by some new and particular opinion." These words came to Abubeker's ears and touched him to the quick. "Shall my zeal for the king," said he to his wife and son, "be turned into redicule? Well, I myself will undertake a journey to Serendib, to see if what the manuscript reports be true.

If, notwithstanding all my wishes, I do not succeed in my enterprise, at least I shall have the consolation to have done more for my prince than all the other physicians of Astracan put together." Nothing could divert Abubeker from his resolution, and the length and difficulties of the voyage did not at all dishearten him. He presented himself the next day before the king, and informed him of his design. That prince highly commended so noble an undertaking. He gave him every thing that was necessary for so tedious a voyage, and promised him, in case he died by the way, to take particular care of his wife, and of his only son, whom he loved entirely. "My lord", said the physician, taking leave of Schems-Eddin, "if I do not return in three years, you may believe that death, or some strange accident, which I cannot foresee, has obstructed the ardent desire I have to restore you to sight. But a certain confidence which I have in the Arabian manuscript, makes me hope, my voyage will not be fruitless." At length Abubeker set out for Serendib, and it was not without very great envy that the other physicians saw the king so biassed in his favour.

Schems-Eddin, in the flower of his age, and blind as he was, governed his subjects with admirable prudence. Shut up in the recesses of his palace, he was incessantly thinking of the means to make them happy, and laid it down to himself as an unalterable law, till the return of the physician Abubeker, to appear in public but one hour every day, which hour he divided into four parts. During the first he went to the great mosque of Astracan to pray; the second, third and sometimes part of the fourth, were destined for doing acts of charity, and receiving the complaints of private persons against the public officers, either

by word of mouth, or in writing. Afterwards he commanded the two visiers Mutamhid and Cuberghe, upon whom he relied in most of his affairs, to punish or turn out those officers if they deserved it. He distributed justice with so much equity and discretion, that his sentences were looked upon as so many oracles. As for what remained of the last quarter of an hour, he spent it in the conversation of learned men. This was the only diversion that prince enjoyed all the day, and as he liked their company, he gave them marks of his liberality. The honour of diverting the king, who generally seemed sunk in melancholy, more than the view of interest, animated his subjects to find out persons who might dissipate his sorrows, by telling him some extraordinary story. If a famous traveller arrived at Astracan, he was immediately carried to Schems-Eddin, and when the inhabitants themselves knew any singular adventure, they presented themselves before their prince, that they might have the pleasure of contributing to his entertainment.

It was now two years since Abubeker had been gone to the island of Serendib and that the king, exactly observing the rule he had prescribed to himself, had never failed to allot some moments every day to those amusements, when the two favourite visiers discoursing together of the motive of Abubeker's voyage, "If that physician prove a cheat," said one of them, "or, should not return to Astracan, we shall be very much at a loss to procure the king fit persons to talk to him. He has committed that charge to our care, and though a quarter of an hour is quickly past, yet as it is to be renewed daily, I am afraid, at last we shall not be able to find any thing new." "That would be pity indeed," replied the other visier, "the king

has now contracted a pleasing habit of hearing some story or other every day, and it is almost the only satisfaction of his life, for in the manner this wise prince conducts himself, he enjoys no delight of royalty, but that of labouring incessantly for the good of his subjects." One of the physicians of Astracan was present at the conversation. He thought this a fair opportunity of gratifying the envy which he and all his brethren had conceived against Abubeker. "My lords," said he to the visiers, "all men of sense are of your opinion, and you will infallibly fall into the inconvenience you already apprehend. I know but one remedy against it. Abubeker's son, deriding the perplexity he foresees you will soon be in, boasted yesterday in my hearing, that he himself was able, if he had a mind to it, to find diversion for the king till his father's return. It is true, this young man has a good deal of learning, and ever since he was ten years old, has applied himself with great eagerness to read all manner of books; but, notwithstanding the prodigious memory he is said to be endowed with, I very much doubt whether he could succeed in so difficult an undertaking."

Cuberghe only laughed at the presumption of Abubeker's son, but Mutamhid falling into a violet passion, "Indeed," said he, "it well becomes this insolent young man to jest so unseasonably! Well, since he talks at this rate, he shall keep his word, and his head shall be answerable for the success of an enterprise he is so vain as to pretend to." He that moment ordered somebody to fetch Ben-Eridoun, which was the name of Abubeker's son. "This physician," said he to him when he was come, "assures me that you have the boldness to make a jest of the perplexity, Cuberghe and I may one day be in, to provide

his majesty new subjects of recreation, and that you boast that you yourself could find him diversion till your father's return. Since you are so rash as to talk thus, I command you to look that you do so", continued Mutamhid, with a voice that might have made Ben-Eridoun tremble. "I will be present at all your conversations, and I forewarn you that if the prince grows weary of your discourse, and bids me bring him another, thou shalt that moment loose thy head." Ben-Eridoun was strangely surprised at this order. He perceived so much anger in the visier's eyes, that he durst not deny his having been guilty of that vanity. He confided in his reading and in the happy memory nature had given him, and throwing himself at Mutamhid's feet, "My lord," said he, waving whatever I might urge for my justification, the honour of diverting the king is so coveted by me, that I will not refuse to obey your sovereign commands. Though it cost me my life, I am ready to appear before the throne of Schems-Eddin." The perfidious physician, who had staid by the visier to be witness of what passed, was a little astonished at Ben-Eridoun's answer, yet he made not the least doubt of his destruction. "A young man at most but five and twenty years old," said he to himself, "can never have gathered stock enough to such an undertaking." He presently ran to inform his companions, who all felt a malicious joy at it, and tasted before-hand the pleasure of seeing themselves revenged upon Abubeker in the person of his son.

The visier Mutamhid, pleased with the submission and modesty of Ben-Eridoun, dropped all his anger. "As your death is unavoidable," says he, "if you do not fulfil your promise, so your reward, on the other hand, is no less certain, if you succeed in your design. Every time you

leave the king, I will give you a hundred pieces of gold; I will have you eat at my table; you shall be served like me, and there shall be no other difference between us, but that you shall be narrowly watched." "My lord," replied Ben Eridoun, "it is not the hopes of recompense, or your noble promises, that will prompt me to do my duty. The philosophy I make profession of, has taught me to despise riches. Honour and glory are the only motives by which I am actuated, and if what you now require of me were contrary to their dictates, you should see me embrace the most cruel death rather than obey you. But, as there is nothing that is not extremely honourable in the command you impose upon me, you may put me to the trial when you please. I shall endeavour to confound the artifices of my enemies, and I hope my prince will be satisfied with me." Mutambid was charmed with the prudent behaviour of Ben-Eridoun; he then perceived the malice of the old physician, and that the young man was innocent of what was laid to his charge. But, since he offered himself as it were voluntarily to try to divert his prince, he presented him to him the next day.

As soon as Ben-Eridoun came within sight of the throne of Schems-Eddin, he prostrated himself with his face to the earth. He afterwards arose, and addressing his speech to the king, "May the mercy of the Almighty be displayed upon your majesty," said he, "may the angel that is one day to present you before His throne, forget no one good action of your life, and may you for ever enjoy the perfect felicity which our great prophet has promised to those who exactly follow his laws! My name is Ben-Eridoun the son of Abubeker, who has gone two years or thereabouts to the island of Serendib. May heaven quickly send him

back with the divine remedy which he travels in quest of, to restore you to sight. Till that time comes, I have undrtaken, my lord, to entertain your majesty every day for that little while, which you set apart to unbend your mind." "Do you consider what you have engaged to do?" answered the king, somewhat surprised at these promises. "Do you not know that such an enterprise is beyond your ability, and that your father may not return perhaps this twelve-month?" "My lord," replied the young Ben-Eridoun, though great is the difficulty of entertaining my king as I ought to do, yet I know such a number of stories, each more curious than the other, that even though my father should lengthen out his voyage as long again as he intended, I do not despair of being able to fulfil the promise I have made to the visier Mutamhid; and if your majesty will do me the honour to hear me, I will begin with a very singular story."

Schems-Eddin was yet more surprised than before. "Thou must be a wonder in thy kind", said he, "if thou keepest thy word. Difficulties do not at all discourage thee." "On the contrary, my lord," replied Ben-Eridoun, "they animate me with more vigour. I have so happy a memory, that I never forgot any thing I had read or heard, and I always delighted in keeping company with the oldest and wisest men in Astracan, great part of whom are dead. I am possessed of such a number of different histories of every kind, that without boasting, I may assure your majesty there are few men like me in this city." "I shall quickly be a judge of that," replied the king. "Sit down by Mutamhid on this sofa, and let me hear the story you offered to tell me." Ben-Eridoun obeyed the orders of Schems-Eddin. He sat down upon the sofa, and began in this manner—

The History of Cheref-Eldin, son of the King of Ormuz and Gul-hindy, Princess of Tuluphan.

There was formerly, my lord, in the greater Tartary, two different sorts of genies; the one disposed to do good to mankind, acknowledged the great Geoncha for their king; and the other, never pleased but when they were exercising their malicious inclination, had no other master than the revengeful Zeloulou. These two captains of the genies had for almost three hundred years been at continual war with each other. Geoncha protected nobody that Zeloulou did not immediately endeavour to persecute, and Zeloulou could do no ill action upon the earth, but Geoncha presently set about to redress it.

One day as these two genies were upon the banks of the river Salgora, endeavouring to decide their differences by conference, Mochzadin, King of Tuluphan, and the beautiful Riza, his wife, who were returning together from hunting the kid, passed by the place where the two genies were contending. Zeloulou, always watchful to do ill, would not let slip so fair an opportunity of indulging his propensity that way. Notwithstanding Geoncha's entreaties, that malicious genie, going up to Riza, who rode side by side with Mochzadin, made so great a noise in her horse's ear, that the frightened beast ran away with the princess, notwithstanding all her efforts to restrain him, and was just going to precipitate her into the river, which was very deep in that part, if with one blow of a sabre, struck by a powerful hand, Geoncha, running to her assistance, had not cut off the horse's head and caught the princess in his arms who had swooned away with fear. The kind genie, having

afterwards made her to smell a nosegay of musk roses, which he had in his hand, she not only returned to her senses, but her clothes, which were green before, were now changed into a rose-colour, and though her features were not in the least altered, her beauty was increased to such a degree, that the king himself, who justly alarmed at the danger of his spouse, had followed her with extreme swiftness, could scarce know her again. He and all his train were in a surprise not to be imagined. The extraordinary death of Riza's horse, her rose-coloured habit, and her additional beauty, all this brought about in a moment, the author of so many wonders not appearing, for the genies had not made themselves visible, all this I say, happened so unaccountably, that the king and queen were almost apt to doubt of a truth, which their eyes could not but testify. After being returned to Tuluphan, and retired into their chamber by themselves, they were still with admiration, discoursing of the prodigy they had seen, when they were seized with fear and respect at the sight of a venerable old man who of a sudden appeared before them without their perceiving how he got in. "Be not afraid, my children," said he to them kindly. "I am Geoncha, king of the genies. It is I, that after having preserved the charming Riza from the danger into which Zeloulou, who has made himself famous upon earth by a thousand malicious actions, had thrown her by frightening her horse. It is I," continued he, "who had resolved that none of her sex shall surpass her in beauty. I do not stint my favours in so narrow a compass. I intend likewise to put an end to her barrenness. In nine months time from this day she shall bring forth a daughter as beautiful as herself."

The king of the genies, continued Ben-Eridoun, had no sooner spoke these words, but he disappeared, leaving the king and queen of Tuluphan, in an ecstacy of joy at so pleasing an expectation. However incredulous they had been till then, they soon ceased to be so. Riza, who during seven years marriage had never had the pleasing satisfaction of being a mother, quickly felt the effects of Geoncha's promises. At the end of nine months exactly, she was brought to bed of a daughter, completely beautiful, whom she named Gul-hindy. This little princess no sooner enjoyed the light, but the same genie appeared again in the chamber where Riza and Mochzadin were together. "I come with inexpressible pleasure", said he, "to put the last hand to so charming a work and to inform you of the destiny that is prepared for her. I assisted yesterday at the birth of a son of the king of Ormuz, whom I named Cheref-Eldin. I find so much resemblance and sympathy between him and this lovely princess, that I have resolved to unite them one day by the most holy ties. But I foresee that the happiness they are to enjoy will be crossed by such misfortunes, as will drive Gul-hindy to the very brink of death, if they know one another before they have attained the age of seventeen years. It must be your care my lord," continued the genie, addressing his speech to Mochzadin, "to keep the princess from seeing any stranger, till she is past the fatal moment, which the stars have discovered will be so dangerous to her. This is the only remedy I can think of, unless you will put her into my hands. For then, I will warrant her free from all the caprices of fortune." Mochzadin and Riza were surprised at Geoncha's words. But though they gave entire credit to his prediction, they were not able to consent to part with a child they had so

many years longed for. They begged the genie very earnestly, not to be offended if they kept the little Gul-hindy with themselves, and assured him they would take so much care of her, that she should be in no manner of danger from the prince Cheref-Eldin. "So be it then", replied the genie, "only remember, when the princess is ten years old, to keep her from the sight of all the world. The nearer she approches her sixteenth year, the greater danger she will be in". Then having taken her in his arms, he enriched her with all the fine qualities that could make a person of her sex accomplished ; and after having received a thousand thanks from the king and queen, he departed like a flash of lightning.

Scarce my lord, continued Ben-Eridoun, did the malignant Zeloulou, who could not come to an agreement with Geoncha in their last conference, know what he had done for Gul-hindy and Cheref-Eldin, but he resolved to gratify his malicious temper in crossing the felicity of these two lovely infants. He repaired in the night to the palace of the king of Ormuz, stole away the little prince, carried him to Tuluphan, dressed him in Gul-hindy's clothes, and covering that little princess with those of Cheref-Eldin, placed her a moment after in the cradle from which he had taken the prince of Ormuz. We may easily conceive the surprise the two nurses were into—

Ben-Eridoun was interrupted here by a black slave, who came every day to tell the king of Astracan that his hour was out. As soon as this slave appeared, Schems-Eddin arose to return to his palace. He who had the honour to entertain him, gave over speaking and resumed his discourse the next day, if he had not finshed his story. If he had, there

was brought to the king another who told him some adventure he had not yet heard. Thus the thousand and one quarters of hours are divided in the original Arabic; but I thought it would be the best way to leave out all that follows and precedes Ben-Eridoun's narration, being persuaded that the reader will read these stories with more pleasure so, than if they were interrupted by continual repetitions which it would be almost impossible not to be guilty of.

The two nurses were strangely surprised in the morning to find each her child so different from what it was the night before. They looked upon them with unparalleled amazment, when Zeloulou appearing to each of them in the shape of a frightful dwarf, threatened to wring their necks if ever they discovered the metamorphosis that had happened and departed after having assured them, that if before those children had attained the age of seventeen years, the secret was found out in any manner whatsoever, they would fall into his power, without any possibility of ever getting out of it. The poor women were so terrified, that they resolved to keep the strictest silence. Their life depended upon it, and the genie had so intimidated them, that they would have suffered any torment rather than have revealed the secret. Cheref-Eldin then was brought up at the court of king Mochzadin by the name of Gul-hindy, and that princess, under the habit of the prince of Persia, rendered herself in a little time so perfect at the exercises of the body, that when she was fifteen years old, she surpassed all the subjects of the king of Ormuz in those accomplishments.

The education of the young prince was not very agreeable to his sex. That which he seemed to be of,

engaged him in quite different occupations. He generally amused himself in embroidery, and being according to Geoncha's order, shut up from the age of ten years in Mochzadin's palace, which was grown inaccessible to every body but the king of Tuluphan, he never left off work but to hunt in the park, accompanied by his women and some of his eunuchs. His nurse, Merou, who never quitted him, seeing him approach to his sixteenth year, often recommended it to him to conceal his sex with the greatest care, since the repose of his whole life depended upon his so doing. "But," said Cheref-Eldin to her with tears, "why am I educated like a girl, and deprived of the learning and sciences which ought to be communicated to a prince of my rank? And what unjust motive can oblige the king and queen to let me languish thus in an idle inactive state of life?" "These are things I am ignorant of," replied Merou. "But my dear prince, or rather my dear princess, for it is dangerous to call you by the first name, all I can assure you of is, that Mochzadin and Riza are more deceived in you than any body. They believe you are a girl, they have been convinced of it by their own eyes; but things have had a strange alteration since that time. This is all I can tell you at present; you will know more hereafter. But I beg you not to expose yourself to the cruel miseries I have so often threatened you with, if you discover your sex till you are full seventeen years old." The prince was surprised at this advice. The more he reflected with himself, the more he was confounded. He resolved therefore to follow the prudent counsels of his nurse; but in order to dissipate the uneasiness which preyed upon him, he went a hunting as often as possible.

One evening as Mochzadin and Riza were conversing with their supposed daughter, the queen related to her, as she had often done before, the story of her birth and the promises the king of the genies had made to unite her destiny with that of the son of the king of Ormuz. This story so often repeated perplexed the prince to the highest degree. He knew not what to fix upon, but at last resolved, let what would happen, to fly for ever from a place where he spent a life so unworthy of himself. It was no easy thing to compass this design; all the gates of the palace were guarded by eunuchs not to be corrupted; but to excute the project he had formed, he chose the time of his hunting and after having taken with him two purses full of gold and a good many jewels, being very well mounted, he easily rode away from his company and spurring directly to a door of the park, which led into the wide country, he commanded the eunuch that guarded it to open it to him. The slave refused to obey him; but the prince having dispatched him into the other world with one blow of his sabre, which he always wore when he went a hunting, took the keys and flying with incredible swiftness, chose the road that was least beaten, and travelled all that day and the following night without taking the least repose. The ladies and eunuchs belonging to the false princess, made the strictest search for her all over the park. After having in vain traversed every corner of it, they came at last to the door, which they found open; the dead body of the enuch increased their surprise. They concluded that some unfortunate accident had happened to Gul-hindy. Nobody cared to inform the king and queen of this mournful news: yet it was not to be avoided but they should know it. They almost died with grief when

they heard it. "Oh heaven!" cried the queen, tearing her hair and face, "why did not we take the advice of the wise Geoncha? We should not now have been thus oppressed with the bitterest affliction. Gul-hindy is undoubtedly stolen away; the genie too rightly predicted this mischance. Pray Heaven, my dear daughter do not feel the consequences of it!"

While the king and queen wasted their time in vain complaints and fruitless reflections, the prince continued his speed. All the pursuit that was made after him was to no purpose. He rode as hard as his horse could carry him, and did not stop till he fell dead under him. He was now forced to travel a-foot in a very great perplexity, when there passed by him a young Tartarian. The prince accosted him. "Do you know any body," said he, "that could sell me a horse?" "You could not have addressed yourself more luckily, madam," replied the young man, deceived by Cheref-Eldin's female habit. "My father who lives but a little way off, has no inconsiderable dealings that way." The prince followed him, furnished himself with a good horse, and after having taken a few hours rest, renewed his journey, travelled several days almost without stopping a moment, and at last arrived at a sea-port where he found a vessel just ready to set sail for Surat. The master of the ship was a man of a good aspect, about forty years old. He received the prince with abundance of respect, as a young lady of quality going to the Indies to take possession of a very considerable estate left her by her father, and whose mother died suddenly at hearing the news of her husband's death. He made her an offer of his own table, which Cheref-Eldin accepted the more willingly, because having embarked very hastily, he had not had time to make

any provision. The repast was served up with great delicacy, but at the conclusion of it, he was very much surprised to see a lady of extreme beauty enter the cabin and address these words to the master of the ship. "Remember Sinadib, that God has given us a father and a mother, that we should obey them; it is God that speaks to us through their mouth. Woe to him that despises them and does not submit to their commands with respect and duty. Sinadab at these words rose from table; the tears ran down his eyes; he afterwards prostrated himself on the ground, remained some time in that posture, and then rising with the marks of the deepest sorrow engraved upon his face, "Beauteous Roukia," said he to the lady, "I shall never forget this wholesome counsel. My past misfortunes have sufficiently imprinted them in my memory; but do you continue nevertheless to put me in mind of them daily, as you have been used to do."

The prince, Cheref-Eldin, looked upon Sinadab with wonder. He perceived it. "You will no longer be surprised, madam," said he, "when I have told you the occasion of this ceremony, and why this lady at all my meals repeats to me the words you just now heard." Cheref-Eldin having testified a great desire to know the story, thus my lord, continued Ben-Eridoun, Sinadab related it to him:—

The Story of Sinadab, the son of Sazan the Physician

My father, whose name was Sazan, was a physician at Suez. He exercised that profession with a good deal of honour for a considerable time. He had no child but me, and therefore spared no cost in my education. I was almost twenty years old, when he would fain have persuaded me

to embrace his profession ; but besides that I found myself extremely averse to it, as he was esteemed a very rich man, I thought, I had no occasion to qualify myself to get a livelihood. I imagined that the estate he was to leave me would be more than enough to maintain me in luxury and pleasure, without my giving myself the least pains or trouble. My father's remonstrances could not dissuade me from my resolution. This disturbed him so much that he fell sick and after having kept his bed five or six months, died. Before his last groan he called me to him. " My son", said he, " since in my lifetime I never received any comfort from yon, give me at least so much satisfaction at my death as to promise me, that yon will punctually follow three articles of advice, which I foresee will be extremely useful to you. Swear to me upon the Alcoran that they shall never be out of your memory." I melted into tears, continued Sinadab, I took an oath to my father to execute his will ; and this, madam, is what the good old man said to me, embracing me. " I leave you wealth enough and perhaps too much, to live like a man of honesty and honor. Endeavour, my dear, Sinadab to keep it; but if by any accident which I cannot forsee, you should happen to lose it, never attach yourself to a prince whose good character you are not thoroughly assured of. Be sure, whatever love you bear your wife, never to trust her wi h a secret wherein your life may be concerned; and lastly, never adopt for your son a child that is none of your own—"

Scarce had my father made me swear a second time upon the Alcoran to obey him religiously in these three points, but he closed his eyes and resigned his soul into the hands of the angel of death. I doubled my tears at this mournful sight, and rendered him the last duties with

all imaginable tenderness. Under his bed's-head I found the copy of a will which he had deposited with the cadi. He gave me leave to dispose how I would of all his estate, excepting only a little garden which was without the gates of Suez, at the end whereof was a pretty neat summer-house, which he ordered me not to sell upon any account whatsoever. I paid little regard to this article, which seemed to me of no great consequence. I minded nothing but examining carefully what wealth he had left me. I found almost a hundred thousand sequins of gold, several diamonds perfectly rich, considerable inheritances and very magnificent furniture. So soon as I could appear in public with decency, I called together my companions in my own house, to the number of eight. I presented each of them with a slave completely beautiful, and entertained them sumptuously for ten days together. In short, madam, continued Sinadab, not to weary you with a particular relation of all my follies and debaucheries, in which I plunged deeper and deeper every day, I shall only tell you, that after having led this sort of life for almost two years, I found myself of a sudden without money. My comrades, who had never quitted me during my pleasures, advised me to dispose of my jewels and furniture. I sold them piece by piece, for half their value. I afterwards did the same by the houses my father had left me, reserving only the garden which it was not in my power to sell; and at length I was so reduced that I had nothing left but the clothes I had on, and one single hawk which I had trained up to flying.

When my friends saw me in these straits, they immediately deserted me. It was to no purpose my reproaching them for their ingratitude; they did but laugh at me. Only there was one of them, that taking pity of

the condition I was in, gave me ten sequins. I had not ate any thing for two days together; so that I received this money as a present from heaven. Being now perfectly ashamed of myself, I went to the port of Suez designing to embark in the first ship I could meet with. I found one that was just ready to depart for Adel. I had scarce time enough to make some slight provision for my voyage with the little money I was master of. I set forwards with nothing but my hawk, and we arrived at Adel without meeting with any accident. I had now remaining in my purse but three sequins of the ten which had been given me, I resolved to be a good husband of them, and to live upon the industry of my hawk. I had a very particular talent for training up those sorts of birds. Mine was very excellent at the sport. I had accustomed him not to kill his quarry; he only pecked out their eyes with two strokes of his bill, and then I took them alive; so that I did not want for game to maintain myself and a poor old widow-woman that had taken me into her house. I had so much that I carried some every day to the King's purveyor, who paid me for it nobly, and who was so surprised at what I told him of my bird, that he informed the king of it. That prince, who was a great lover of sporting sent for me. He told me he would see my hawk take a flight and bid me be ready next day very early. I gladly obeyed and the king was so charmed at the swiftness, dexterity and obedience of my bird, that he asked me what I would take far it. "Sir," replied I, "it is all that I have left of above two hundred thousand sequins which my father bequeathed me when he died. This poor hawk has maintained me ever since I have been in want; but since he has been so happy

as to please your majesty, I shall be overpaid for him by the honour I hope you will do me in accepting him."

The king of Adel, continued Sinadab immediately ordered me twenty thousand sequins, lodged me in his palace and conferred on me the place of his chief huntsman. In a word, madam, that prince had so much kindness for me, that in a little time I became his prime visier and sole confident. I went with him every day a-hunting, in which divertion he delighted exceedingly, and I seldom was from him but when he retired among his women. "How unhappy should I be, my dear Sinadab," said he to me one day, "if I should lose you! You share the sweetest moments of my life." "My lord," replied I, "the favour of the great is too uncertain a bottom for a wise man to build upon. I am loaded to day with your goodness, perhaps to-morrow I shall be loaded with chains by your command." "No, no visier," said he, "fear nothing. I shall always love you, and to bind you more strictly to me, and that you may entirely forget your own country, you shall marry one of my sisters. I have three that are tolerably handsome; you shall see them this moment, but without their knowledge, and if your heart is not already engaged, she you like best, shall to-morrow be your wife." I threw myself at the king's feet, confounded with the honour he did me. He raised me up and embracing me tenderly, made me go into his closet, placed me behind a great curtain of black gauze, and commanded the captain of his eunuchs to fetch the three princesses. The king's orders were executed in an instant. Immediately afterwards there entered the closet three ladies of unparalled beauty, brilliant as full moons. The king talked with them some time upon indifferent matter, then having sent them back

to their own apartments, he called me from behind the curtain where I stood. "Well, my dear visier," said he, "which of my three sisters gave your heart the most emotion?" "Ah my lord," replied I transported, "those ladies are of such ravishing beauty that I could not decide in so little time." "Come, come." interrupted the king, "one of the three did certainly please you more than the other two; own which it was, I give her to you freely, and I command you to discover your sentiments to me frankly." "My lord," replied I, "since you absolutely lay your commands upon me, the youngest of the three princesses pierced my heart with the most irresistible charms; but notwithstanding your majesty's unbounded goodness to your slave, my happiness would be incomplete if I did not obtain the princess by her own consent." "These sentiments are extremely delicate," replied the king, "but I will give you this satisfaction too." Then he ordered the captain of the eunuchs to fetch Bouzemghir, this madam, was the princess's name; she immediately came. "My dear Bouzemghir," said the king embracing her, "I intend to marry you, but will not force your inclinations. The visier Sinadab, to whom I just now proposed you for a wife, will owe your hand to nothing but your love. I leave you with him, examine your heart before you give me a positive answer, and assure yourself, that let your resolution be what it will, I shall not be in the least displeased at it."

The king of Adel upon this retired and left the captain of the eunuchs at the door without. It would be to no purpose madam, continued Sinadab, to repeat to you the conversation Bouzemghir and I had together. She gave me to understand, by the tenderest expressions, that she should esteem it her greatest felicity to have me for her

husband, and assured me more than once, that the obedience she owed to the king, her brother, had no share in the sentiments she so ingenuously discovered to me. Upon this I espoused her with all imaginable magnificence, and the city of Adel took part in my joy, for the king upon that occasion discharged the inhabitants from one fourth of all their taxes. At the end of some months Bouzemghir found herself with child. As I loved her tenderly, I was inexpressibly rejoiced at it; but my joy was of very short duration. She happened to fall, hurt herself very dangerously, and had likely to die of a miscarriage. By the extraordinary care that was taken of her, she soon recovered a perfect state of health, but five years being passed without having any children, we consulted the skilfullest physicians in all Adel, who unanimously assured us, the princess my wife could never be a mother. This gave great uneasiness to Bouzemghir, whom I adored, and who loved me with inconceivable tenderness. "My lord," said she to me, one night when we were alone together, "since I am for ever deprived of the sweet pleasure of giving you an heir, let us at least try to soften the rigour of our fortune by adopting little Roumy." This madam, continued Sinadab, was the son of one of my slaves, and at four years old gave a prospect of all that could be hoped for in a child of that age. As I never knew how to contradict Bouzemghir in any thing, I willingly consented to this proposal, with the good liking of the king of Adel. I brought up Roumy like my own son, and neglected nothing that might make him accomplished. Roumy had now for ten years looked upon me as his father, and I had received all possible satisfaction from him, when one night as I was in bed with Bouzemghir, and not

able to sleep, my father's last words and the oath he had made me take upon the Alcoran, came into my mind; but I only laughed at it. " How these old folks dote ? said I to myself. " I have wasted all my substance, I have given myself to a prince that I know nothing of, and am I ever the worse for it ? On the contrary, could I ever wish for a fortune more considerable, more solid and more conspicuous, than that of being visier and brother-in-law to a potent king, who places his whole delight in having me near him ! I have adopted Roumy in spite of my father's command, what satisfaction do I receive from that child, who at fifteen years of age, gives marks of so excellent a temper, and from whom I may one day expect all the acknowledgment and gratitude in the world ! No, no, we should not be too servilely strict in obeying the will of our fathers ; when they have attained a certain age, they are so far from being able to direct others, that they are hardly in a condition to conduct themselves."

I went to sleep, madam, after having made these wise reflections. They came into my head again next morning. " Here are two articles of my father's advise already neglected," said I to myself , " and not the least misfortune has ensued. Let us see if it will be the same with the third." After having studied some time, I hit upon the stratagem which I am going to tell you. Bouzemghir had often murmured at the king of Adel, when he tore me from her arms to carry me a-hunting, from whence I generally returned very much fatigued. Her complaints put me upon trying if my wife were capable of keeping a secret. I went to the perch where the king's hawks stood, and took down that which he most loved, unseen by any body. I carried it to a plesure-house at the end of a garden which I

had out of the city, and gave it to a mute who was the keeper of it, with orders not to stir from thence till somebody came to him from me and shewed him my ring. I then took the key of the garden, and double-locked the door, and carried the key to a friend, whose probity I was perfectly well assured of. "If you hear that my life is in danger", said I to him, "which I foresee may quickly happen, oblige me so far as to go to my garden, of which here is the key, shew this ring to the mute that is keeper of it, and bring him to me with the depositum I just now entrusted him with; he will be serviceable in my justification." Then I returned home; and as I had always a pretty many hawks to teach, I took one that exactly resembled the king's, wrung off its neck, and carried it to my wife. "Charming Bouzemghir", said I embracing her, "behold a token of my tenderness. You have so often complained of the king of Adel, that I was resolved to cut away the root of the uneasiness he gives you. This hawk is the only cause. He it is that by being the sole delight of the king, deprives you of yours. I have killed him, but be sure you take heed not to reveal this secret. I am a dead man if the king should know of this my ingratitude to him, and he would have but little regard to the motive that prevailed upon me to do it. Bouzemghir at first seemed frightened at the danger I had brought upon myself; but presently afterwards tenderly pressing my hand, "My dear lord," said she, "light of my life, if only you and I are acquanted with this secret, you may be sure you are safe, and that the most cruel torments shall never extort it from me". "So far then we are well," replied I. "Do you take and conceal the hawk with the utmost caution, while I go to make my court to the king". I left Bouzemghir, to wait upon the king of

Adel. He had already been informed that his hawk was not to be found. He appeared extremely uneasy at it. "My lord", said I, "I know but one way to recover your bird. Have it published all over Adel how much you are disturbed at the loss, and promise a reward for finding it, worthy the generosity of so great a monarch as you are."

The king took my advice; he had it cried at every street's end, that whoever should bring him tidings of his hawk, dead or alive, if it was a man, besides the confiscation of half the estate of him who committed the theft, he should make him one of the greatest men in the kingdom; and that if it was a woman, he would marry her to the visier Giamy, who was the handsomest man in all Adel, and shared his favour with me. This proclamation was soon spread over the city. I thought it all in vain, relying upon the extraordinary love of Bouzemghir, who for fifteen years had not let a day pass without giving me some fresh marks of it. But before sun-set I was in the utmost surprise to see myself arrested on the part of the king, and thrown into a dark dungeon, where I spent the night.

Day-light had scarce begun to appear when I was carried before the king of Adel, whose fury was visible in his countenance. "Perfidious visier," said he to me, "Hast thou so soon forgot the favours I have showered upon thee? What! Without the least gratitude for the station that I have raised thee to, hast thou the cruelty to stab me in the tenderest part?" "My lord," replied I, "from the dust in which I grovelled you took me, and placed me upon the throne of greatness, and it is in your power to tumble me from it with a single blast of your breath. But give me leave to represent to you that I am entirely ignorant of the cause of your anger, and that the persons who accuse me to you, are

much less innocent than me." Ungrateful traitor!" said the king, "Hast thou not killed my hawk?" "I! my lord," replied I in a seeming amazement. "Is it possible I should rob my master of that only instrument of his delight, by which I had the happiness to please him? No, no, my lord, if this is all the reason of your anger, I am certain it will quickly fall upon another head." "Ah, villain!" cried the king with fury, pulling out the dead hawk from under his robe, "Dost thou add this audaciousness to thy former crime? There, behold thy handywork." I was very much confounded at this sight. "My lord," said I upon this, "appearances are often false. But, though I have nothing to upbraid myself with as to the death of your hawk, I beg you would tell me the name of my accuser." "Well," answered the king of Adel, "I will grant thee this satisfaction too; it is Bouzemghir, thy wife; darest thou object to such a witness?" A thunder-bolt could not have fallen more heavy than this news did upon me. At that moment I called to mind my father's last words, and the remembrance almost sunk me to the earth. "Just heaven!" cried I, "Bouzemghir, my accuser! Does she betray me? Was ever any thing so black, so odious? Ah! my lord," continued I, "I could, if I pleased, retort the whole gilt upon her. But, though I am innocent towards you, I will not defend myself. I-respect your blood. I deserve death, if you have not the goodness to bethink you of the promises your majesty has made me in the warmest moments of your friendship." "No, no," replied the king of Abel, "the more I have loved you, the more unpardonable is your crime. Do not hope for any mercy, but prepare yourself to lose your head." In short, madam, continued Sinadab, notwithstanding all I could say to

move that prince's heart, he turned his back upon me and left me in the hands of his guards to be delivered to the executioner.

For fifteen years that I had been visier, having never done any body the least wrong or injustice, all men of probity were grieved to see me condemned to die for so small a matter. They endeavoured in vain to obtain my pardon, as the king was inexorable. My guards who could not without tears behold my approaching death, offered to let me escape. "No," said I to them, "I thank you for your good will, but will not expose you to the king's displeasure for my safety. I am not guilty ; I am able to justify myself when I see a fit time to do it." The king commanded me to be beheaded but to no purpose. The executioner absented himself from Adel that he might not do his office, and all those whom the king commisioned to do it refused, so that he was obliged to publish throughout the city, that whoever would accept the employment should have the other half of my estate, which he had not as yet disposed of. Though this offer was very advantageous, nobody yet appeared to give me my death, when Roumy, my adopted son, went to Bouzemghir; "Madam," said he, "without concerning myself whether Sinadab is guilty or no, his head is devoted to death, and I am in pain for him while he languishes in this manner by every body's refusing to dispatch him. Of his immense riches the one half is yours, as revealer of his crime ; so that I am the only sufferer, since the king promises the other half to the man that shall execute Sinadab. I will offer myself to the king to do this service. I believe he, and Sinadab himself, will take it kindly at my hands, and I shall put an end to the course of a life which is certainly

hateful to him, and get for myself the wealth which ought not by right to fall into the possession of strangers."

Bouzemghir, who it is likely, had conceived a violent passion for the visier Giamy, from the description which I myself perhaps had given her of him, namely, that he was the handsomest man in all Adel, knew she could not marry him while I was alive. This was what made her so basely to betray me. She approved the infamous resolution that Roumy had taken, carried him to the king, and coloured over the action so artfully, that the prince who thirsted for my blood, brought him himself into my prison, and took a barbarous delight in shewing me my executioner. I remained motionless at the sight of Roumy. In vain, with tears in my eyes, I upbraided him with his ingratitude. He had the hardness of heart to tie my hands, and would fain have persuaded me that I was obliged to him for his offering himself to dispatch me. The king was present all the while at so mournful a sight, without being in the least concerned at it. My tears were not able to move him, and finding him inflexible, "O Sazan, Sazan," cried I, "Why did not I follow your advice?" These words, which he imagined had no sense in them, made him believe that the fear of death had put me beside my wits. "What do you mean by these words, O Sazan, Sazan?" said he, "Unfold this riddle to me." "My lord," replied I, "they reproach me for disobeying my father, whose name was Sazan, in the three only things he recommended to me upon his death-bed. I must endure the punishment without murmuring. I have devoted myself to your majesty's service without thoroughly knowing you; I have revealed a secret to my wife; and I have fostered in my breast a viper, that is now about to sting me to death.

Notwithstanding all your promises, you deliver me up to punishment for the death of a hawk, which I am innocent of; Bouzemghir, forgetting the inexpressible tenderness I have had for her these fifteen years, betrays me in the most perfidious manner; and Roumy, this boy, whom I have looked upon as my own son, seduced by sordid interest, offers himself to be my executioner. O Sazan, Sazan! Once more, why did I not take your advice?" The king and all the spectators grew stiff with horror at this relation, when I turned myself to Roumy, "Strike, unworthy Roumy, strike," cried I; "Do not lengthen out the pain of the unhappy but innocent Sinadab, every moment of whose life ought to cover thee with shame and confusion."

Roumy, without being at all concerned at any thing I could say to him, drew his sword, and prepared to cut off my head. Roumy, like an unnatural child, was just going to give me the fatal blow, continued Sinadab, when the friend whom I had intrusted with the key of my garden, entered the prison with the king's hawk upon his fist. "My lord," said he, catching hold of Roumy's arm, which was not above two fingers-breadth from my neck, "behold the falsity of the accusation formed against Sinadab, and be convinced that this is your own hawk, by the mark you yourself gave him upon one of his feet." The king of Adel was strangely surprised at the sight of the bird. The greatest confusion imaginable presently covered his face. He bent his eyes upon the earth, and fell into the profoundest thoughtfulness at what had happened. For my part, added Sinadab, however lucky my friend's arrival was for me, I was almost sorry for it. Life was become odious to me by reason of my wife's treachery, and the ingratitude of my adopted son. However, I threw

myself at the king's feet. "My lord," said I, "Lo! this miserable favourite, whom you had so often assured of eternal protection, was upon the point of losing his life unjustly." Upon this he raised me from the ground, and ordered me to explain the whole mystery to him. I did it in a few words. He examined all the circumstances of what I told him, and perceiving his own fault and Bouzemghir's baseness of soul, he immediately sent to seize her, had her brought before him, and having caused her to be tied back to back with Roumy, he commanded me to cut off their heads with the same sabre that had been designed to cut off mine. I refused to dip my hand in the blood that had been so dear to me. I even begged mercy for those two vile wretches, but I could not obtain it. One of the king's guards severed their heads from their shoulders.

The king contented with this execution, which I could not see without shedding of tears in abundance, embraced me tenderly, and carried me back with him to the palace. "My lord", said I to him again, "was I deceived when I formerly represented to you, that they who rely upon the favour of the great, build upon the sand, since the death of a vile creature, which you thought me the author of, could make you forget in a moment a friendship of fifteen years?" "Forget this fault, visier," said the king of Adel. "I am ashamed of myself, and will make you ample amends. I will raise you to such a pitch of glory, that there shall for the future be no danger of your falling." "No, my lord," answered I respectfully, "give me leave to return to Suez, there to enjoy a quiet and peaceable life. This is the only favour that Sinadab now desires of you". The king strongly opposed this resolution, but I remained unshaken. Nothing could persuade me to

stay with him, and I set sail eight days afterwards in a ship which he gave me, and which I loaded with all my riches and furniture, and a great many jewels with which he presented me at my departure. This separation occasioned me some regret; but at length I steered towards Egypt, and we were almost in sight of port, when a dreadful tempest, after having tossed us about for three days and three nights together, swallowed np my ship at some leagues distance from Suez. All the mariners perished. I was the only man that by help of a plank was saved from the shipwreck, and got safe to shore; but I had lost all my effects and saw myself in a moment reduced to the lowest degree of misery and want.

Not knowing where to lay my head, I called to mind my father's will. I remembered that I was still master of a little garden and summer-house without the gates of Suez. I was curious to know if any body had taken possession of it in my absence. I had been gone away above sixteen years. I found it in the same condition wherein I had left it, only that it seemed very much out of repair; I opened the door by means of a secret which my father had often shewed me, and which nobody else was acquainted with. I found the walls all overgrown with moss, and the room very much in disorder; and as it was pretty late, and I extremly fatigued, I laid me down upon an old rotten mat, where I slept till hunger waked me. I was master of no trade to get a livelihood by. Being unwilling to make myself known, I resolved to ask alms from door to door. For this purpose I went out of the garden; but I implored in vain the charity of the inhabitants of Suez. Nobody assisted me in the present want I was reduced to, so that at night I returned to my little house, very hungry

and weary with walking about all day. I sat me down upon an old joint-stool that stood in a corner of the summer-house, and resolved in my mind all that my father had commanded me at his death, and which I had given so little heed to, when I cast my eyes upon a small coffer, almost rotten, which I had not yet seen. It was fast locked. I very hastily broke it open, thinking to find in it some money that my father might have put there. But I was very much surprised when I saw nothing in it but a rope about the bigness of ones little finger, and a note of my father's own hand-writing in these words: "You have not kept your word with me, Sinadab, though you swore upon the Alcoran to do it. Your ill management and disobedience have brought you to this condition. But if you have resolution to follow this last counsel, you will find an end of your misfortunes in this coffer." "Yes," cried I with fury, "yes, father, I will for this one time obey you; neither indeed have I now any thing further to hope for but to finish my unhappy days by this rope." Then taking a desparate resolution, I got up upon a joint-stool, and after having tied the rope into a slip knot, I fastened it to a sort of hook, which stuck in the ceiling of the summer-house, and which seemed to have been placed there for that very purpose. I put the noose about my neck, and kicking away the stool, abandoned myself without reluctance to to the rigour my destiny.

By this means, madam, I expected to have found a certain death, when the weight of my body pulling down the hook, brought along with it a sort of trap-door, through which fell so great a number of pieces of gold, that I was all covered with them. This happy discovery soon made me forget what little hurt I had received from my fall. I

presently raised myself, climbed up through the trap door, and was in an inexpressible amazement at finding there an immense quantity of riches, as well in gold as in diamonds. I thought I should have died with joy at this sight which at once put an end to all my misfortunes. I took one of the pieces of gold, and having fast locked the garden-door went and provided myself with a good meal. Next day I distributed among the poor dervises a thousand pieces of gold, and having put myself in a condition to appear with honour in the city, I re-purchased almost all my father's possessions; and that I may never forget the misfortunes into which I fell by my disobedience, I cause to be repeated to me at all meals, the words you just now heard, concerning the submission and respect due from children to their parents. It is almost five years, madam, continued Sinadab, since I returned to Suez; during all that time I have done my utmost endeavours to live like a man of virtue and honour. My misfortrnes have made me wise and frugal, and I spend my life agreeably with the beautiful Roukia, whom you saw immediately after dinner. Of all my women she is her in whom I have found most merit. She is of Surat; and having two sisters there whom she loves tenderly, and who are in narrow circumstances, I am going at her request to look them out, that I may carry them with me to Suez, where I mean to settle them.

When Sinadab, my lord, continued Ben-Eridoun, had done speaking, prince Cheref-Eldin let him know how glad he was to see him thus happy after the multitude of crosses he had gone through; and as the winds were very favourable, the ship was not long before it arrived at Surat. The prince, still in his woman's dress, there took his leave of Sinadab and the charming Roukia, returning them a million of thanks for the civilities he had received

from them, and after having rested himself for some time he took the way to China.

This story has afforded me extraordinary delight, interrupted the king of Astracan, addressing himself to Ben-Eridoun, I am wonderfully pleased with you, and I order Mutamhid to give you an hundred pieces of gold for every day that you contribute to relax my mind ; but I am no less impatient now to know the fate of Gul-hindy and Cheref-Eldin, than I have been these few days past to hear the sequel of Sinadab's adventures; since we have still some little time remaining, continue your history. Ben-Eridoun, charmed with being so happy as to please his prince, went on thus :—

The Continuation of the History of Cheref-Eldin and Gul-hindy.

Cheref-Eldin, my lord, still in a woman's habit, had travelled but few days before he came to a delightful meadow. Arabia the Happy does not produce such variety of riches and grateful odours as nature displayed in this place. The earth was covered with a soft grass which seemed as if it never withered. Neither the heats of summer, nor the nipping blasts of winter ever faded the roses, jessamines, and violets, with which the country was adorned, and those flowers which charmed the eye by the diversity of their colours, did at the same time gratify the senses by the exquisite odour with which they embalmed the air. At the bottom of this meadow rose a kind of rock, in the form of a grotto, from the middle of which there ran a spring into a great basin of rustic marble. This water was so clear and beautiful, that by its enticing murmur it invited the beholders to rest themselves on its sides, which were

decked with a green turf; and a large tree, which grew just by it, streched out its boughs so thick of leaves, that its shade was impenetrable by the rays of the hottest sun. Here the prince endeavoured to enjoy for some moments the sweets of sleep, which the solitude and freshness of the place seemed to offer him. He tied his horse to a shrub, and extended himself upon the grass. But he was scarce fallen into a gentle slumber, when a frightful giant, that had but one eye, and lived near that charming place, whither he was sometimes used to resort to refresh himself, came thither. He was deceived by the dress of the young prince, whom he mistook for a woman of the most ravishing beauty. He became passionately enamoured of him, and prepared to carry him off. He had already untied his sabre and thrown it at some distance from him, and was just about to execute his design, when an arrow, which seemed to be shot by an invisible hand, flew directly into his eye and put it out, by this means disabling him to satisfy his brutish passion. The prince was soon waked by the bellowing the giant made at this wound; and looking about for his deliverer, he spied a young man so like himself, that he was at first in doubt if it was not his own shadow.

The stranger and the fictitious princess of Tuluphan admired one another for some time without speaking; but at length the last breaking silence, "I am indebted to you, Sir, for the preservation of my honour and my life," said he to him. "I beg you would tell me to whom it is I owe an obligation which will be eternally present to my memory." The stranger for some time hesitated answering the prince, whom he thought a woman: but prevailed upon by a secret motive which he could not resist, "to any other

but you, madam," said he, "I call myself Mobarek, son of a merchant at Ispahan, and have left Persia out of a curiosity to travel. But a certain impulse, the cause of which I am ignorant of, forces me not to dissemble with you, and to confess that I am the prince of Ormuz. I was flying from my father's court to avoid a match I am extremely averse to, when passing by this place, I saw you come to the side of this spring. The parity of features there is between us, made me desirous to learn who you are; and I was just going to accost you with that design, when I saw you, very much fatigued, endeavour to take some little repose, which I was unwilling to disturb, and which you might still have enjoyed, had it not been for the insolence of that monster whom I have deprived of light. But, madam," continued he, "permit me to tell you, that though the duty of a prince obliges me to give assistance to persons of your sex, yet there was something more that animated me when I undertook your defence. Forgive this rash confession, madam, nor let this declaration offend your modesty. An invisible obstacle opposes the felicity I might hope for in obtaining your love. I therefore only beg your friendship; but, madam, I beg it with all the earnestness imaginable, and shall love you with so much purity, that your virtue shall not have the least cause to be uneasy at it."

The feigned princess of Tuluphan was so surprised when the stranger informed her that he was the son of the king of Ormuz, that a flush diffused itself all over her face. In this moment she made a thousand dreadful reflections upon what Riza had told her of that prince, and upon the impossibility there was in the execution of the will of the king of the genies. But these reflections being all destroyed

at the sight of so charming a prince, for whom in spite of herself, she already felt the most perfect esteem, she was just upon the point of discovering herself to him, when calling to mind the misfortunes that Merou had threatened her with, she resolved to be silent only upon the subject of her sex, but to have in every thing else the same confidence for the prince of Persia, as he had had for her. "My lord," said she to him, "your actions are so respectful, and I am so much obliged to you, that I cannot be offended at the declaration you have made to me. You desire only my friendship, which is due to you without the least reserve. As for me, hunting was my only diversion, till some particular reasons which I cannot reveal without exposing myself to the greatest miseries, made me leave my father's court. But though I had resolved to conceal my name from the whole world, by disguising myself under that of an emir of Samarcand, I cannot help thinking it almost my duty to let you know, my lord, that I am the only daughter of the King of Tuluphan, and that my name is Gul-hindy." "Just heaven !" cried the feigned prince, interrupting her, "Are you then that lovely Gul-hindy, whose beauty fame has published throughout the whole East ? It is upon your account, madam. that I quit my father's court and betake myself to flight, for reasons which incessantly torment me ; and it is you that I now have met with. Ah! my princess," cotinued he, his eyes drowned in tears, and despair painted upon his face, "why are we not born for one another? O ye sovereign arbiters of all things ! You who see the bottom of my heart, what have I done to be thus tortured ? And thou, perfidious love, why dost thou kindle in me so sharp a flame, when thou knowest how impossible it is that it should ever be quenched ? Yes, my princess, I adore you,

but I shall be obliged to fly you. My father has lately sent ambassadors to king Mochzadin to demand you in marriage for me. The ancient friendship there is between these two monarchs, inclines me to believe that the king of Tuluphan will not give a denial to the king of Ormuz. But, adorable Gul-hindy, I repeat it once more, let what will happen, and though the whole universe and our great prophet himself should favour us, I can never be united to you, though I would spend the last drop of my bllood to be in a condition to enjoy that happiness.

"Prince," replied the pretended Gul-hindy, whom these words threw into an extreme amazement, "I cannot penetrate the reasons that make you talk thus; but, what perhaps would offend any other than me, is the very thing that gives me a greater esteem for you. Be informed that I have no less cause than you to avoid the marriage that is preparing for me; and that what I have just now heard will detain me for ever from my father's court."—"Well then, fair princess," cried the disguised prince, "let us fly together, and conceal under borrowed names from all the earth a prince and princess, whose loss I am sure will cost the kings of Tuluphan and Ormuz abundance of tears. But, madam", continued he, "since fate has been so cruel as to order it so, that I can never be yours, I attest our great prophet that I never will be another's. I will love you with all the purity imaginable, without the least hope, and I will never have any other object of my desires and of my glory than the charming Gul-hindy. How happy should I be if your sentiments were so conformable with mine, as that nothing but death should ever dissolve so complete an union! But I know not what I say. Pardon, madam, these indiscreet transports. What! Because I cannot possess you, must I

rob a prince, more happy than me, of the master-piece of nature?" "Yes, my lord," replied the pretended Gul-hindy blushing, "I permit you to believe that what you propose is agreeable to me. Since the stars oppose our union, I will never engage my heart to any but the prince of Ormuz. Let us at least be joined by an inviolable friendship, though love has undertaken, through a barbarous caprice, to keep us asunder."

In short, my lord, proceeded Ben-Eridoun, these two lovers, miserable in not being acquainted with each other's condition, but happy in the sympathy there was between them, and the reciprocal tenderness, with which Geoncha had inspired them, these two lovers, I say, after a conversation extremely passionate, vowed to eaeh other a friendship that should be proof against any thing that could happen ; and after having remounted their steeds, they left that charming meadow in company together. They had travelled several days without meeting with any thing particular, when they perceived at the entrance of a forest of palm-trees a palace of an antique structure, but which seemed nevertheless magnificent in its simplicity. At the gate of this palace stood a venerable old man, who accosted them. "My children," said he to them, with the greatest kindness, "night draws on, there is neither town nor village in above six leagues hereabouts, nor any house where you can pass the night. If you will come into this palace, you may repose yourselves in tranquillity and pursue your journey to-morrow." The prince and princess charmed with the humanity of their host, accepted his offer. They entered into the palace, where they found a woman about threescore years old, and of a simplicity equal to that of her husband. She strove to receive them in the

best manner she was able, and soon afterwards there was brought in a very handsome repast, but without prodigality though there was far from being a want of any thing. Towards the conclusion of the supper, the old man sent the slaves that waited at table out of the room, and having desired his guests to tell him the motive of their journey, and for what reason they travelled in a track that was so far from the common road, Cheref-Eldin took upon him to answer. "Alas! sir," said he to the old man, "I can give you that satisfaction in a few words. We are brother and sister, and are flying from Samarcand to avoid the persecution of a visier, who, not satisfied with having cruelly put our father to death, and possessed himself of all his substance pursues our lives with the same barbarity." "Ill men are very much to be dreaded," replied the old man, "but sooner or later they perish miserably. I have had a melancholy experience of this truth in my own family, and it is but a few years that I have recovered the quiet of which two of my sons had robbed me by their crimes." Gul-hindy was very much moved at the sight of the tears which a tender remembrance drew from the eyes of the good old man. "Our grief is sometimes alleviated by telling the cause of it," said she to him, "and if it is not too great a favour, we should be willing, sir, to hear the relation of your misfortunes." "With all my heart, my dear children," replied the old man. "The tears you saw me shed were not altogether tears of sorrow, they rather express the joy I now feel in seeing all those misfortunes at an end. Listen to me therefore with attention."